

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-17. (CANCELLED)

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of activating an alert upon an occurrence of one of a plurality of events~~detecting an event~~ and generating and updating a trigger, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a trigger based upon historical occurrences of at least one health symptom experienced by a plurality of patients, wherein the step of generating is performed by a main computer;

monitoring occurrences of the at least one health symptom within a time window;

comparing the occurrences of the at least one health symptom within the time window to the trigger, wherein the step of comparing the occurrences is performed by the main computer;

activating an alert indicating the occurrence of an event when the occurrences of the at least one health symptom exceed the trigger; and

updating the trigger at an update frequency, wherein the step of updating includes adding new occurrences to the historical occurrences and dropping old occurrences from the historical occurrences, wherein the step of updating the trigger is performed by the main computer.

19-46. (CANCELLED)

47. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of ~~detecting an event~~activating an alert upon an occurrence of one of a plurality of events, the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring occurrences of a plurality of health symptoms experienced by a plurality of patients, wherein the step of monitoring the occurrences is performed by a main computer;

comparing the occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms to a plurality of triggers, each of the plurality of triggers associated with one of a plurality of different events, wherein the step of comparing the occurrences is performed by the main computer; and

activating an alert indicating the occurrence of one of the plurality of events when the occurrences exceed an associated one of the plurality of triggers, wherein the step of activating the alert is performed by the main computer.

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 47 further including the step of receiving the occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms from an emergency services dispatcher.
49. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 48 further including the step of receiving the occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms from a dispatcher computer.
50. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 48 further including the step of receiving the occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms from a first geographical area.
51. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 50 further including the step of accumulating occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms in a second geographical area which includes the first geographical area and which is larger than the first geographical area.
52. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 50 wherein information about the plurality of health symptoms is provided at a variable time.
53. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 47 further including the steps of receiving a geographic location of each of the occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms and associating the geographical location with each of the occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms.
54. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 53 further including the step of displaying the geographical location of each of the occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms on a display.
55. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 47 further including the step of adjusting a first trigger of the plurality of triggers to generate a new first trigger and then comparing the new first trigger to the occurrences.

56. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 47 wherein the triggers are statistical variations of historical values of the occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms.
57. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 47 further including the step of weighting the plurality of health symptoms relative to one another.
58. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 47 further including the step of calculating the plurality of triggers prior to the step of comparing the occurrences of the health symptoms to the plurality of triggers.
59. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 47 wherein the plurality of health symptoms include headache, fever, fainting, clammy, unconscious, bleeding, vomiting and nausea.
60. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 47 wherein the events include a biological attack and a chemical attack.
61. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 47 wherein step of the monitoring occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms further is performed within a time window.
62. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 61 further including the step of generating the plurality of triggers based upon historical occurrences of the plurality of one health symptoms within the time window.
63. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 62 further including the step of updating the plurality of triggers at an update frequency, the step of updating including the step of adding new occurrences to the historical occurrences.

64. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 62 wherein the plurality of triggers is based upon criteria, the method further including the steps of changing criteria of the plurality of triggers and recalculating the plurality of triggers based upon the changed criteria and the historical occurrences.

65. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 64 wherein the at least one health symptom includes a plurality of symptoms, and the criteria for the plurality of triggers includes the plurality of symptoms, the step of changing the criteria including the step of adding a symptom to the plurality of symptoms.

66. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 64 wherein the criteria for the plurality of triggers includes the plurality of symptoms and a statistical relationship to the historical occurrences, the step of changing the criteria including the step of changing the statistical relationship to the historical occurrences.

67. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 47 further including the step of adjusting a sensitivity of the plurality of triggers.

68. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 67 wherein the step of adjusting the sensitivity of the plurality of triggers is based on a national threat level.

69. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 47 further including the steps of contacting an emergency services dispatcher to report the at least one health symptom and then inputting the at least one health symptom into a dispatcher computer.

70. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for detecting an event, the system comprising:
a main computer for monitoring occurrences of at least one health symptom, for comparing the occurrences of the at least one health symptom to a trigger, ~~and for detecting which~~ of at least one of a plurality of different events is causing the occurrences of the at least one health symptom, ~~and for an alert system~~ indicating an alert based upon a comparison of the occurrences of the at least one health symptom to the trigger to indicate the occurrence of an event.
71. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 70 further including a plurality of input computers for gathering occurrences of the at least one health symptom.
72. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 70 wherein the main computer determines a geographic location of the at least one health symptom.
73. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 72 further including a visual display that displays a location of the at least one health symptom.
74. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 70 wherein the trigger is based on a statistical variation of a historical value of the at least one health symptom.
75. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 70 wherein the at least one health symptom is one of headache, fever, fainting, clammy, unconscious, bleeding, vomiting and nausea.
76. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 70 wherein the at least one health symptom includes a plurality of symptoms.
77. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 76 wherein the trigger is based upon historical occurrences of the plurality of symptoms.

78. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 77 wherein the trigger is updated at an update frequency, wherein new occurrences are added to the historical occurrences to update the trigger.

79. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 70 wherein a sensitivity of the trigger is adjusted.

80. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 79 wherein the sensitivity of the trigger is based on a national threat level.

81. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 70 wherein a person contacts an emergency services dispatcher to report the at least one health symptom and the emergency services dispatcher inputs the at least one health symptom into a dispatcher computer.

82. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 70 wherein the event is one of a chemical attack and a biological attack.

83. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of activating an alert upon an occurrence of one of a plurality of events~~detecting an event~~, the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring an occurrence of a first health symptom;

monitoring an occurrence of a second health symptom, wherein the first health symptom is different from the second health symptom;

determining which of at least one of a plurality of different events is occurring by using the first health symptom and the second health symptom, wherein the step of determining is performed by a main computer;

comparing the occurrences of the first health symptom and the second health symptom to a trigger, wherein the step of comparing is performed by the main computer; and

activating an alert indicating the occurrence of an event when the occurrences of the first health symptom and the second health symptom exceed the trigger, wherein the step of activating the alert is performed by ~~an alert system~~the main computer.

84. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 83 further including the step of adjusting the trigger to generate a new trigger and then comparing the new trigger to the occurrences of the first health symptom and the second health symptom.

85. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 83 wherein the step of monitoring the occurrence of the first health symptom is performed independently of the step of monitoring the occurrence of the second health symptom.

86. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for activating an alert upon an occurrence of one of a plurality of events~~detecting an event~~, the system comprising:

a main computer for monitoring occurrences of a first health symptom and a second health symptom, for comparing the occurrences of the first health symptom and the second health symptom to a trigger, ~~and for determining which of at least one of a plurality of different events is occurring by using the first health symptom and the second health symptom, and for indicating an alert based upon a comparison of the occurrences of the first health symptom and the second health symptom to the trigger to indicate the occurrence of an event,~~ wherein the first health symptom is different from the second health symptom; ~~and~~

~~an alert system indicating an alert based upon a comparison of the occurrences of the first health symptom and the second health symptom to the trigger to indicate the occurrence of an event.~~

87. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 86 wherein the trigger is adjustable.

88. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 86 wherein the first health symptom is monitored independently from the second health symptom.

89. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 86 wherein the event is one of a chemical attack and a biological attack.

90. (CANCELLED)

91. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for activating an alert upon an occurrence of one of a plurality of events~~detecting an event~~, the symptom comprising:

a main computer for monitoring occurrences of at least one health symptom with a time window, for generating a trigger based upon historical occurrences of the at least one health symptom with the time window, for comparing the occurrences of the at least one health symptom to a trigger, ~~and~~ for updating the trigger at an update frequency, and for indicating an alert based upon a comparison of the occurrences of the at least one health symptom to the trigger to indicate the occurrence of an event, wherein the step of updating includes adding new occurrences to the historical occurrences and dropping old occurrences from the historical occurrences, and the at least one health symptom is determined by evaluating a patient;~~and~~

~~an alert system indicating an alert based upon a comparison of the occurrences of the at least one health symptom to the trigger to indicate the occurrence of an event.~~